

Face-to-Face Meeting – Great Basin Coordinating Group

October 13th, 2004 0900 MDT

Participants: Leonard Wehking, Idaho BLM; Kevin Hull, Nevada BLM; Cliff Chetwin, NPS Intermountain Region; Dave Hart, EGBCC; Janet Passek, NPS Zion; Nelda St Clair, WGBCC; Chuck Redman, NWS Boise; Tom Boatner, BLM – OFA; Randy Hart, Utah BLM; Dave Dalrymple, State of Utah; Mike Dudley, USFS R4; Bob Burke, State of Idaho; Bruce Babb, FWS; Craig Glazier, IDC; Rick Blanton, NIFC Cache; Rick Caballero, NIFC Training; Sheldon Wimmer, Utah BLM; Pam McAlpin, Arizona BLM; Christie Neill, NPS Pacific Northwest Region; Leon Ben, BIA Western Region; Kevin Greenhalgh, USFS Dixie NF, Nancy Ellsworth, WGBCC

Welcome/Introductions (Mike Dudley)

Topic: IMT Status 2005

- Discussion:**
- Type 1 ICs Kim Martin is attempting to extend. Discussing with his boss. Sexton has one year left. Mike Dondero could fill in for Martin. (Janet Passek)
 - No new ICs were signed off this summer. By 2006 Muir and Broyles will be Type one ICs creating vacancies in the type 2 slots. (Janet Passek)
 - Tooter Burdick wants to be a type 1 IC. There is a problem with his boss wanting to let him go on a case by case basis. Sheldon will look into it. (Sheldon Wimmer)
 - Mike wants to know where we are with Type 2 trainees. Rick Caballero let us know that most of the nominees to 520 had conditions that they had to complete this summer in order to be eligible to the class. Janet expressed that by 2007 we will likely be not have enough type 2 ICs to staff 6 IMTs. (Mike Dudley, Rich Caballero, Janet Passek)
 - Sheldon suggested that the OPS committee look into a 5 year commitment for the IMTs. Janet responded that the ops committee had considered it and felt that they would shrink the applicant pool if they asked for an extended commitment. (Janet, Sheldon)
 - Janet has heard that the FUMTs will have a national rotation. Tom believes that there will be national recruitment, but the teams will be staffed by the GACC. (Janet Passek, Tom Boatner)
 - Steinberg and Cones are still available as ICs. (Mike Dudley)

- The team meeting will be held in Reno again this year. It costs around 4 thousand dollars to put it on. Mike Dudley asked Bruce Babb to look into having FWS cover it this year. (Janet Passek, Mike Dudley, Bruce Babb)

- Is the meeting still productive? Yes it is as it gets more organized every year. By November 9 there will be a draft agenda out. It was suggested that there is more breakout time and less time with the entire group together. (Kevin Hull, Jan Passek, Nelda St Clair)

- The Business Group went over the team handbooks and found a number of problems. An example is that one of the handbook states that 16 hour days are standard. Jan asked them to have all their issues in by January so that she can put them through the different committees to check legality.

- The ops committee wants to put together an Operation Handbook that would consolidate information that is scattered. They suggest that the put it on a website. It will be discussed more at the November Ops Committee meeting.

Decision: *Tom Boatner will put this on the NMAC Agenda. Will try to find out the exact process. Who will sponsor and manage them? Who will have responsibility if something goes wrong?
* Dave Hart will send out the recruitment letter for the Teams in the next couple weeks.

Topic: **Great Basin Aviation Group**

Discussion: - The Great Basin Aviation Group is a sub-committee of the Coordinating Group. It has been difficult to keep it together. (Kevin Hull)

- It requires a new, stronger charter. It should be a stand alone group with Bob Burke as the focal point. Bob agreed, but informed the group that he will no longer be a member of the Coordinating Group. His replacement will be Craig Glaizer. (Kevin, Randy, Mike, Bob)

- It needs to be truly interagency including the three current SAMs. It needs to include the various states, FWS BIA, and NPS. (Sheldon)

Decision: * Bob Burke will be the point of contact with organizing this group.
* It will be a stand alone group with a new, stronger charter.

Topic: **Work Force Planning (Rich Caballero)**

- Discussion:***
- Rich Caballero passed out a handout on the Great Basin Workforce Plan for Incident Command Positions. This plan will allow us to see what we will be needing 3-5 years out. This will help us deal with the shrinking pool of candidates. (Caballero, Dudley)
 - Caballero passed out a memo on S-590 Advanced Fire Behavior Interpretation and S-590 Candidate Mentor Process. Do we want to adopt this plan to work in conjunction with Work Force Planning? Every one is in agreement, but Janet suggests that it is streamlined. Put it together with the team picks so that mentors are identified at that time. (Rick Caballero, Janet Passek)
 - Randy isn't sure if there are that many people waiting. Isn't sure if we would find that much interest in mentoring program. (Randy Hart)
 - The Work Force Planning Project will be extremely useful as it will give us names of individuals to fill upcoming vacancies instead of just numbers. (Tom Boutner)
 - Qualification of trainees is supposed to be based on performance, but instead we are finding that there is a time component. If someone's trainer believes that they have completed their training they should not be forced to wait because you need to be a trainee for two years or 60 shifts. (Tom Boatner)

- Decisions:***
- * Everyone agrees with adopting the s-590 mentoring program, with some slight modifications.
 - * Everyone will review the Work Force Planning hand out and get their comments back to Caballero by October 29th.

Topic: **MOU's (Rich Caballero)**

- Discussion:***
- Rich Caballero and Mike Dudley have started to receive MOU's from private organizations that want us to sign so that they can provide training. Do we want to start doing this? (Rich Caballero)
 - If we sign these documents we become responsible and will need to oversee all of their training and records. This creates a workload. Who will pay for it and who will oversee it? (Randy Hart)

- Decision:***
- * The group decided that will not sign MOU's at this time.

Topic: **Training Budget Items (Rich Caballero)**

- Discussion:***
- The WUFSA/MACC course is on schedule and costs around 10-12 thousand dollars. It is not unfunded and the training department has difficulty absorbing the cost. They could charge tuition, but they don't believe that this is the type of course that lends itself to tuition as it is mostly informational. (Rich Caballero)
 - The leadership courses cost 20 thousand dollars each. Last year the USFS funded 3 and the BLM funded 1. It looks like the USFS will not be able to fund any this year. (Rich Caballero)
 - Can we charge tuition? It would be around one thousand dollars a head at the local level. (Tom Boutner, Rich Caballero)
 - By mid November Caballero will know how many people have been nominated and will know how many classes we'll need to have. Might charge five hundred dollars a head and Boatner and Dudley will try to absorb the rest.

- Decision:***
- * On the WUFSA/MACC course the funding will be split up between the BLM states and the USFS.
 - * On the leadership courses Caballero will get back to the group with the number of attendance and the amount of dollars that he's short and Boatner and Dudley will try to come up with the rest. They will also consider charging five hundred dollars per person for tuition.

Topic: **CISM Charter (Nelda St Clair and Randy Hart)**

- Discussion:***
- Due to previous problems with ordering CISM teams, Mark Jones put together a CISM group that identified specific procedures to deal with when and how to order CISM's. Nelda and Randy believe that there should be a CISM committee that is a chartered sub-group of the GBCG. They drafted a charter that Nelda will send out to the group to see if they are interested. (Nelda St Clair and Randy Hart)
 - They suggested that we need standard training that follows the Mitchell Model and allows rapid response to incidents. These people would come from fire and would be trained in peer support. There would still be mental health specialists ordered if needed. Nelda and Randy)
 - Mike Dudley wanted to know who would be on the committee. Nelda St Clair, Randy Hart, Dave Hart, Kirsten Sherve, Jan Peterson, Erika

Schumacher, Steve Dickerson. Also Cliff Chetwin will send Nelda a name for a NPS representative.

Decision: * Nelda will send out a copy of the draft charter and the group will go over it. If everyone is in agreement the committee will be created. Send comments to Nelda by mid-November.

Topic: **Sierra Front Type 2 IMT (Mike Dudley)**

Discussion: - There is some concern with the qualifications of the team that will likely surface once the Waterfall Report is out. There is concern that no one oversees them or verifies their qualifications. Their nominations don't go through the Ops Committee like the rest of the type two nominations. There doesn't seem to be any accountability. (Dudley)

- It was suggested that we send out a letter that they must meet our qualifications and training. It was also suggested that the Nevada Fire Board needs to scrutinize this issue once the Waterfall Report comes out. (Leonard Wehking, Kevin Hull)

Decision: * We are not ready to make a decision yet, but once the Waterfall Report comes out the group will revisit the issue.

Topic: **IMT Mobilization**

Discussion: - There is concern about the length of time that it takes team to mob. There needs to be more willingness on the part of the team to utilize charters. This issue needs to be brought up with the team IC's. (Kevin Hull, Nelda St Clair, Randy Hart)

- There was a suggestion that the overall slowness of team mobs be put on the NMAC/GMAC agenda. There needs to be more emphasis on flying is it will aid in accomplishing the date and time needed. (Tom Boutner)

- The fact that we no longer mob at night also prolongs the amount of time that it takes to mob. (Dave Dalrymple)

Decision: *Janet will take the issue to the team IC's at their November 9th meeting.

*Tom will put the issue on the NMAC/GMAC agenda.

Topic: **FPA (Kevin Greenhalgh)**

Discussion: - Kevin gave an update on FPA and the Great Basin. The 4 priority FPU's are scheduled for training next month. They are working on fire data clean up and are completing their charters. There is a possibility of getting two additional FPU's into PM training and Historical Analysis training. The most likely candidates for these slots are Las Vegas and South West Idaho. Kevin will know about the two additional FPA's by the week of October 18th. (Kevin Greenhalgh)

- There is some concern that helicopters and other aviation resources aren't accurately represented. Kevin will have a response to this the week of October 18th. (Kevin Hull, Kevin Greenhalgh)

- There is some national pressure to prioritize the remaining FPU's in the Great Basin, but there is no hard data yet. (Kevin Greenhalgh)

- There was the suggestion that production groups are created to help FPU's implement FPA and to maintain consistency. Zion did this and found it to be very helpful. There was discussion for the creation of three teams within the Great Basin to take care of all the FPU's. If this was the case then these groups should take the next priority on the upcoming training. (Kevin Hull, Jan Passek)

The first round of priority FPU's should be done by March, 2005. As we get closer the group will consider the formulation of FPA groups. (Kevin Greenhalgh)

- December 2004 is the next major software update. (Kevin Greenhalgh)

- We need to finalize the charters for the FPU's and the FPU boundaries. The group feels this will be completed by the end of this month. (Christie Neill, Kevin Hull)

Decision: * The group will consider creating FPA groups as the first round of FPU's gets closer to completion.

Topic: **Fast Standards Operating Procedures (Cliff Chetwin)**

Discussion: - Cliff handed out a draft copy of the FAST Standard Operating Procedures from the Great Basin. He believes this will help standardize procedures and Protocol. (Cliff Chetwin)

- Last year something similar was added to the mob guide and there is verbiage in the Great Basin MAC Plan. (Nelda St Clair)

- There is concern with some of the verbiage in the draft. It may give the FAST team the ability to take immediate corrective action without consulting the agency administrators. The group agreed that the verbiage could be corrected. (Dave Dalrymple)

Decision: * Nelda will send out a copy of the GMAC plan that concerns FAST Teams and the group will decide from there.

Topic: **GBCG Charter (Kevin Hull)**

Discussion: - A new charter has been created for the GBCG. Please review and have comments back by mid-November.

- Need to add Pam McAlpin and National Weather Service as voting members. Also need to add Pacific West Region Park Service as technical advisors. (Pam McAlpin, Chuck Redman, Christie Neill, Mike Dudley)

Decision: * the group will send comments to Kevin Hull by 11-19-04 for finalization.

* Mike Dudley will take the lead on the draft agreement between agencies on group funding.

Topic: **New Chair (Mike Dudley)**

Discussion: - Time for a new Chair. Everyone nominates Sheldon Wimmers.

- Christie Neill was nominated as the assistant chair. After two years she'll take the chair position.

Decision: * Sheldon Wimmer will be the new chair and Christie Neill will be the assistant chair.

Topic: **MISC Items**

Discussion: **Cache Issues**

- There is a possibility that the BLM caches may not be able to provide scheduled GSA items to no federal agencies due to some type of legality. He'll get back to us when he knows more. (Rick Blanton)

RMCG

- Linden Wiebe (sp) is the new chair of the Rocky Mountain Coordinating Group (Mike Dudley)

- Considering a joint meeting in February with the RMCG if there is a need. February 22cd in SLC was the proposed date. (Mike Dudley)

Rocky Basin Incident Business Committee

- Need to send out a letter to the teams that deal with general business practices, such as AD usage on the teams. There should be a federal trainee with every AD on the teams. (Mike Dudley)

- There is concern from the national business community that AD usage on teams is being abused, which could have repercussions. (Tom Boutner)

Next Meeting

- There should be a conference call in late November to go over Ops Committee items. (Mike Dudley)

- Next face to face will be held on April 4th in Reno at the Atlantis at 1000, right before the team meetings.

Prevention Sub Committee

- This group was in town and came and introduced themselves. Kelly Wood is the current chair and David Acre will be the new chair.

IFPM Implementation Team

- Karen Frost gave a brief update on IFPM implementation and gave a couple of handouts on implementation timelines. If there are any questions see website <http://www.nifc.gov/training-quals/IFPM/ifpm.htm>